

Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan Draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

**Public Meetings
November 2006**



Fort Bliss

Texas and New Mexico

Mission and Master Plan



DRAFT

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMMATIC

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

October 2006

Agenda

Welcome

**Col Burns
Garrison Commander**

Briefing

- **Purpose and Need
for Action**
- **Proposed Action and
Alternatives**
- **Draft SEIS**

**Col White
Deputy for
Transformation**

**Col Kirby
Range Commander**

**Walter Christensen
Directorate of
Environment**

15 Minute Break

Public Comments



Purpose and Need for Action

- ❑ **Army Transformation**
- ❑ **Army Campaign Plan**
- ❑ **Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy**
- ❑ **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)**
- ❑ **Modular Force**
 - **Brigade Combat Team (BCT)**

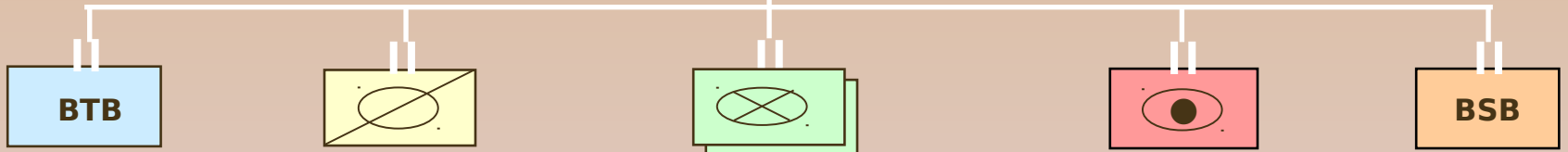


Unit Changes

FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
+ 4 th BCT, 1 st CAV				
	- 108 th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade			
	+ Evaluation BCT			
		- 31 st ADA Brigade		
		+ Armor Division Headquarters		
		+ Heavy BCT		
		+ Artillery (Fires)		
		+ Combat Aviation		
		+ Sustainment Brigade		
		+ Terminal High-Altitude Area Air Defense Unit		
		- ADA School/6th ADA Brigade		
				+ Heavy
		+ Various Echelons Above Brigade support units		

Transformation to a Modular Force

Heavy Brigade Combat Team (BCT)



BTB

BSB

Brigade Troop Battalion Reconnaissance Battalion Combined Arms Battalions Fires Battalion Brigade Support Battalion

Headquarters

- Command & Control
- PSYOPS/Civil Affairs
- Aviation & Air Defense
- Security Platoon
- Military Police Platoon



Signal Company

- Communications/Network Operations Support



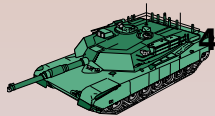
Military Intelligence Company

- Intelligence Integration & Analysis
- Human Intelligence

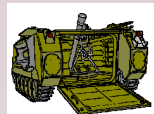
Combat Maneuver & Reconnaissance

Capabilities

- 4 Tank Companies
- 4 Mechanized Companies
- 3 Recon Troops
- 1 Surveillance Troop
- 2 Scout Platoons
- 2 Mortar Platoons



Over 55 M1A1 Tanks



14 120mm Mortar Carriers



40 HMMWV with Long-Range Advanced Scout Surveillance System



Over 85 Bradley Scout & Infantry Fighting Vehicles



2 Sniper Sections

Protection



Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicles



12 Engineer Squads (2 Engr Companies) Various Equipment

Fires

Joint Fires Cell
3 Joint Tactical Air Control Teams



16 155mm Howitzer (2 Batteries)

Target Acquisition



Counterfire and Counter-Mortar Target Acquisition Platoon

Support



Maintenance Company



Distribution Company



Medical Company



4 Forward Support Companies (provide maintenance and other support to battalions)

Personnel Changes

Type of Personnel	Fiscal Year							
	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Officers	1,510	1,300	1,700	1,700	2,000	2,750	3,100	3,300
Warrant Officers	240	200	300	300	400	750	900	900
Enlisted	9,440	8,500	11,800	12,000	14,000	21,500	25,000	25,800
<i>Total U.S. Military</i>	<i>11,190</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>13,800</i>	<i>14,000</i>	<i>16,400</i>	<i>25,000</i>	<i>29,000</i>	<i>30,000</i>
Non-U.S. Military	*	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Government Civilians	7,400	5,300	5,800	6,500	6,600	7,500	8,000	8,000
Students	*	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other Temporary Duty	7,780	4,900	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Contract Civilians	*	2,200	2,400	2,700	2,800	3,100	3,200	3,300
<i>Total Personnel</i>	<i>26,370</i>	<i>25,400</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>31,200</i>	<i>33,800</i>	<i>41,800</i>	<i>46,400</i>	<i>47,500</i>
Military Dependents	18,000	16,500	22,800	23,100	27,100	41,300	47,900	49,500
* Included in other numbers								

Training Requirements

- ❑ **Training Circular 25-1 defines annual training requirements for units at Fort Bliss, including:**
 - **Small arms and large caliber weapons proficiency training**
 - **Off-road vehicle maneuver**
 - **Helicopter training**
- ❑ **Training requirements indicate a need for:**
 - **New live-fire and qualification ranges**
 - **Air ground training range**
 - **Additional off-road maneuver capability**
 - ◆ **Need minimum of 539,000 acres**



Proposed Action and Alternatives

□ Main Cantonment Area

- **Expand to north and east of Biggs Army Airfield**
- **Change land use designation to mixed use**
- **Construct four BCT complexes and other supporting facilities**

□ Fort Bliss Training Complex

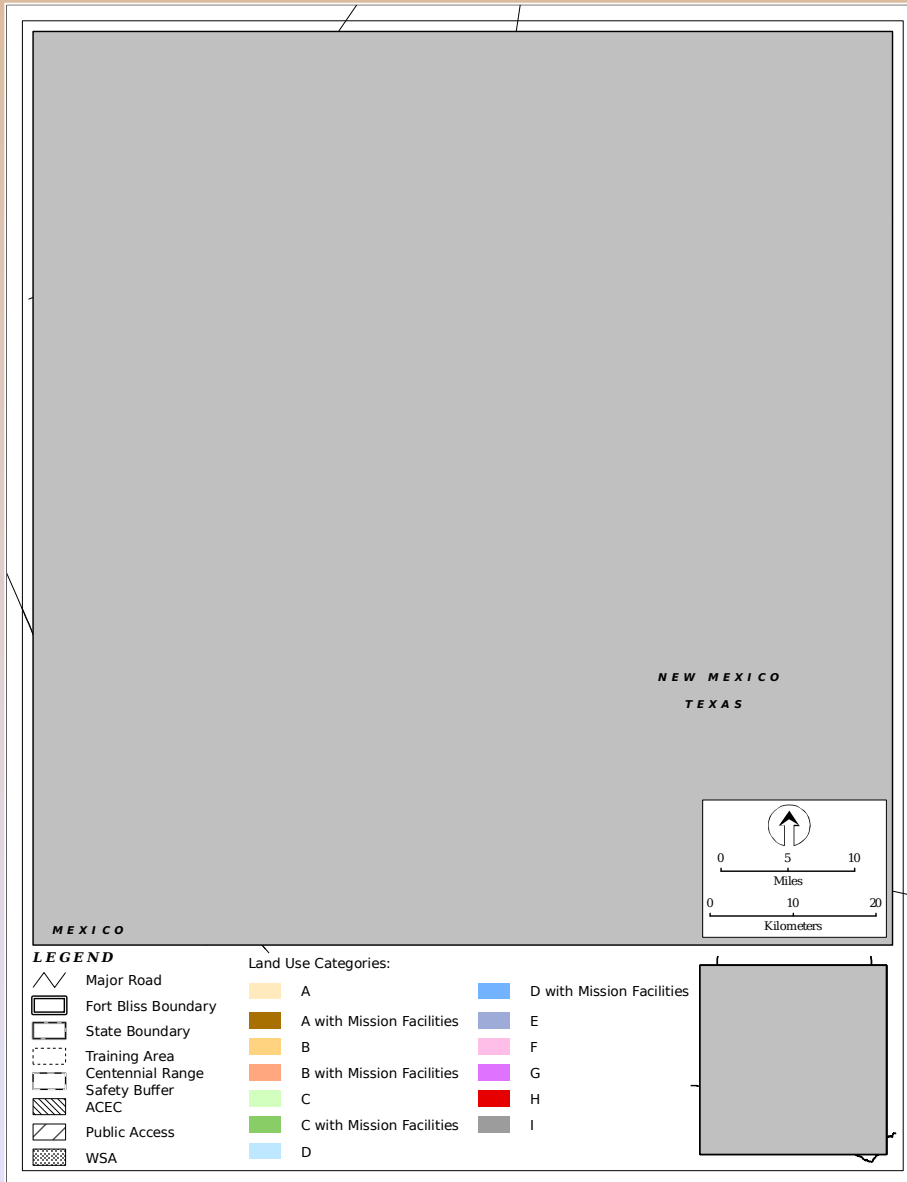
- **New and upgraded ranges at/near existing ranges on Doña Ana and McGregor Ranges**
 - **New Orogrande Range Complex and Digital Air Ground Integration Range (DAGIR)**
 - **Authorize Off-Road Vehicle Maneuver on training areas in the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range**
- 

Options Not Under Consideration

- ❑ **No land use changes proposed on:**
 - **Otero Mesa**
 - **Sacramento Mountains foothills**
 - **Castner Range**
- ❑ **No expansion of installation boundaries**
- ❑ **No alternatives to the BRAC decisions**

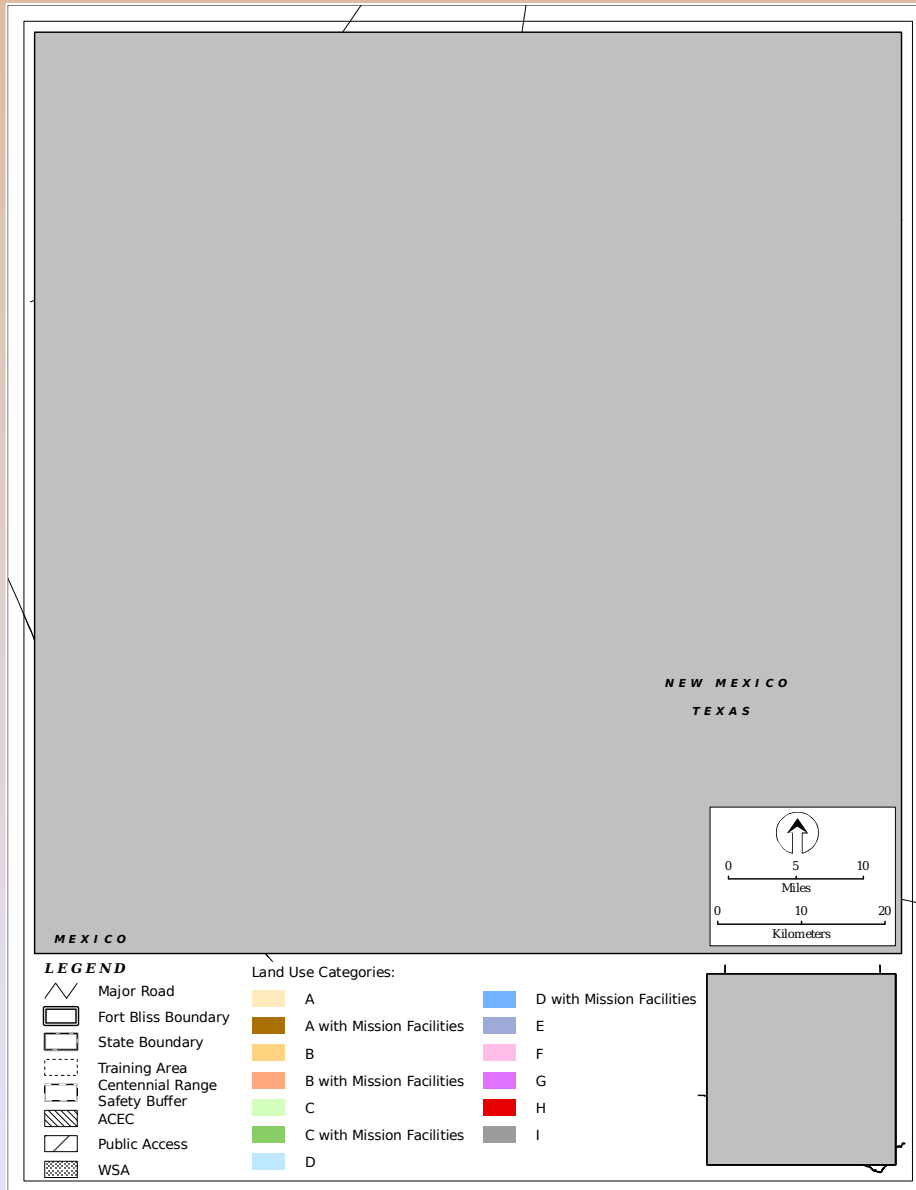


No Action Alternative



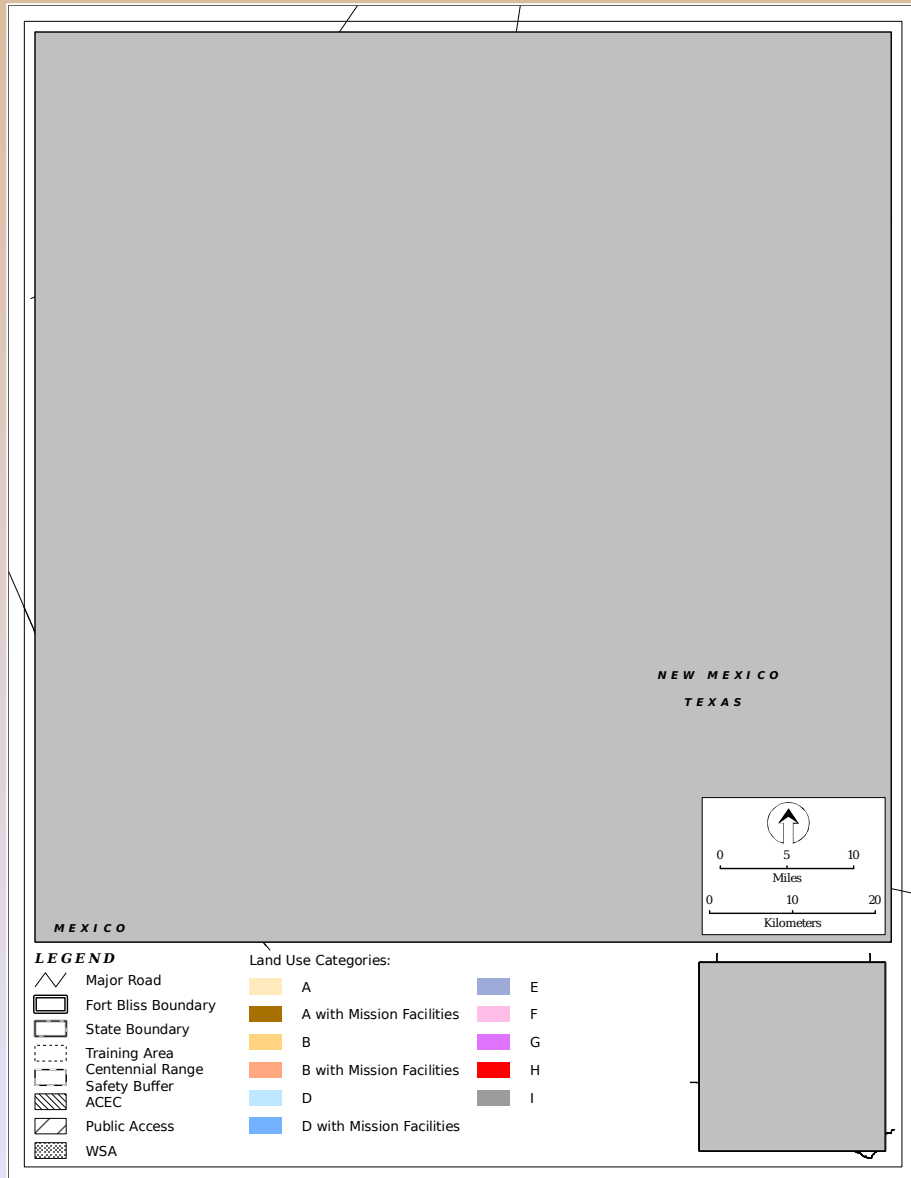
- ❑ Minor modifications to land use from 2000 Mission and Master Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)
- ❑ Range upgrades and enhancements in areas approved for weapons firing and surface impact
- ❑ 335,000 acres approved for Off-Road Vehicle Maneuver
 - North Training Areas
 - South Training Areas
 - Training Area (TA) 8
- ❑ Development of one BCT complex in Main Cantonment Area
- ❑ Does not provide adequate training capability

Alternative 1



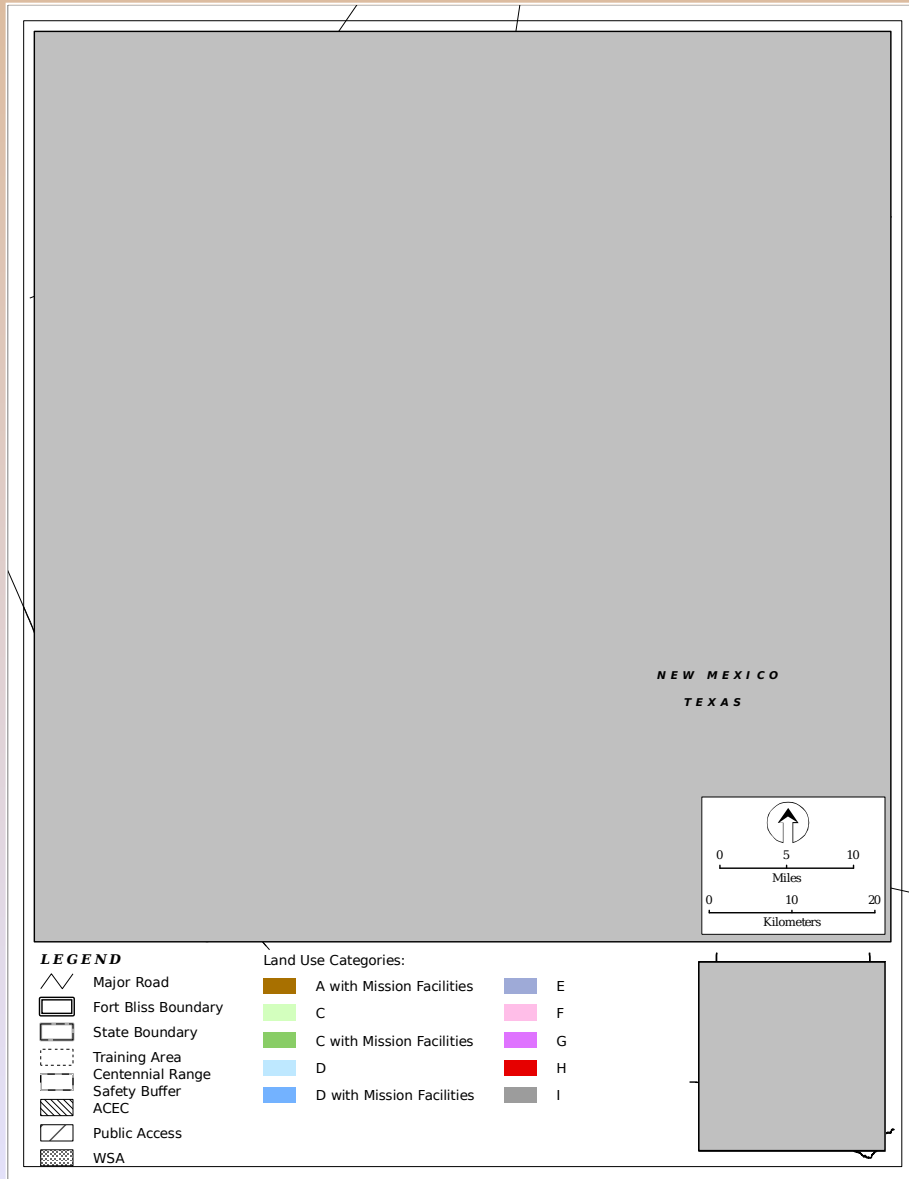
- ❑ **Expand Main Cantonment Area north and east**
- ❑ **Designate TAs in south Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range land use category A with Mission Facilities**
 - **Adds 216,000 acres available for Off-Road Vehicle Maneuver**
- ❑ **Develop new live-fire and qualification ranges on Doña Ana Range and McGregor Range**
- ❑ **Minimally meets off-road vehicle maneuver needs**

Alternative 2



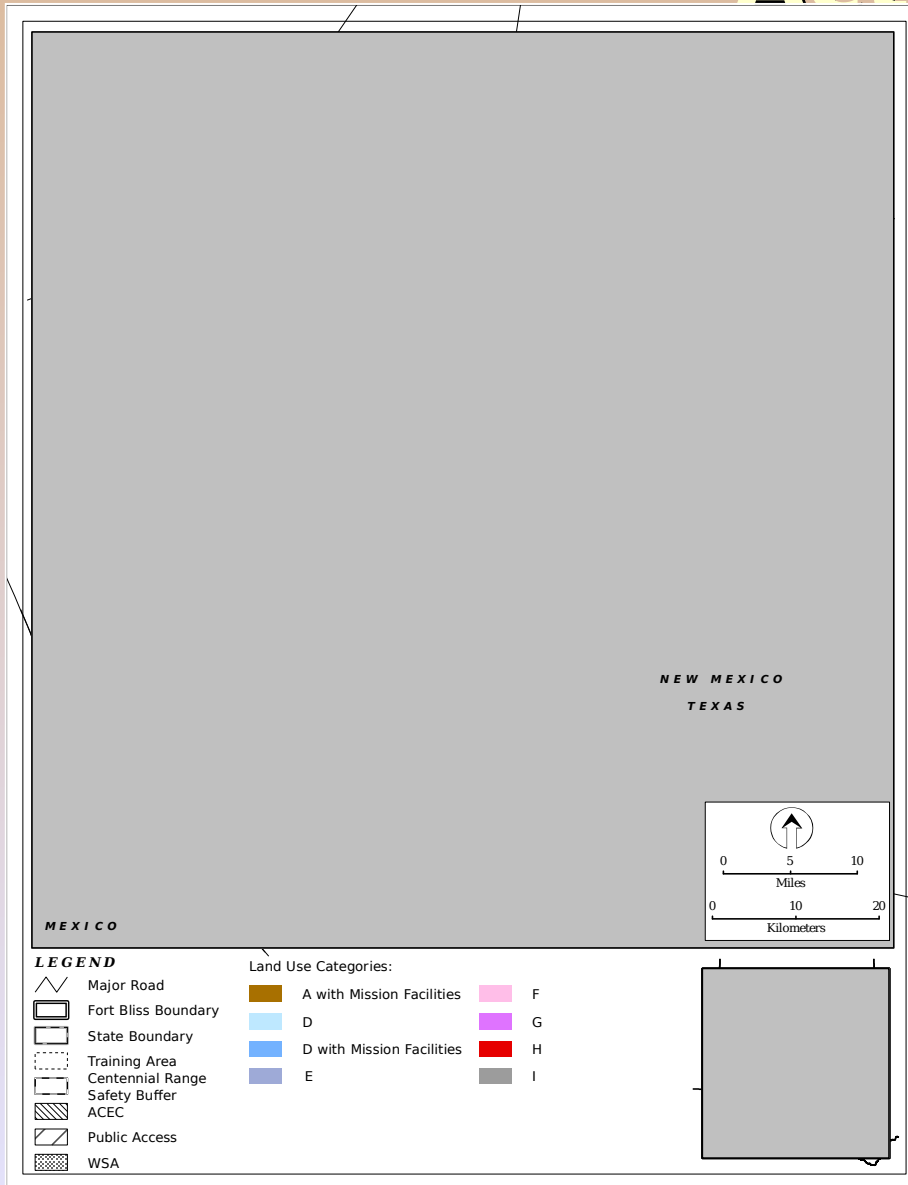
- ❑ **Same changes to Main Cantonment Area as Alternative 1 plus:**
 - **Develop facilities on Biggs AAF for second Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB)**
- ❑ **Designate TAs in north and south Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range land use category A with Mission Facilities**
 - **Adds 280,000 acres available for Off-Road Vehicle Maneuver**
- ❑ **Same range improvements as Alternative 1**

Alternative 3



- ❑ Same changes to Main Cantonment Area as Alternative 2
- ❑ Designate all North and South Training Areas land use category A with Mission Facilities
- ❑ Designate TAs in south Tularosa Basin and southeast TAs of McGregor Range land use category A with Mission Facilities
 - Adds 287,000 acres available for Off-Road Vehicle Maneuver
- ❑ Same range improvements as Alternative 1

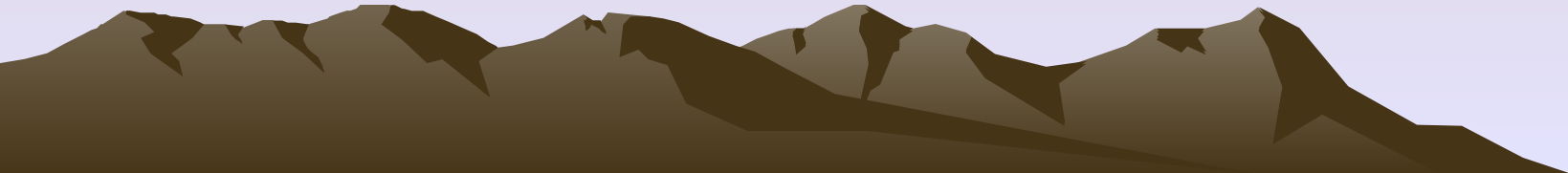
Alternative 4 - Proposed Action



- Same changes to Main Cantonment Area as Alternative 2
- Designate all North and South Training Areas land use category A with Mission Facilities
- Designate TAs in north and south Tularosa Basin and southeast TAs of McGregor Range land use category A with Mission Facilities
 - Adds 352,000 acres available for Off-Road Vehicle Maneuver
- Same range improvements as Alternative 1

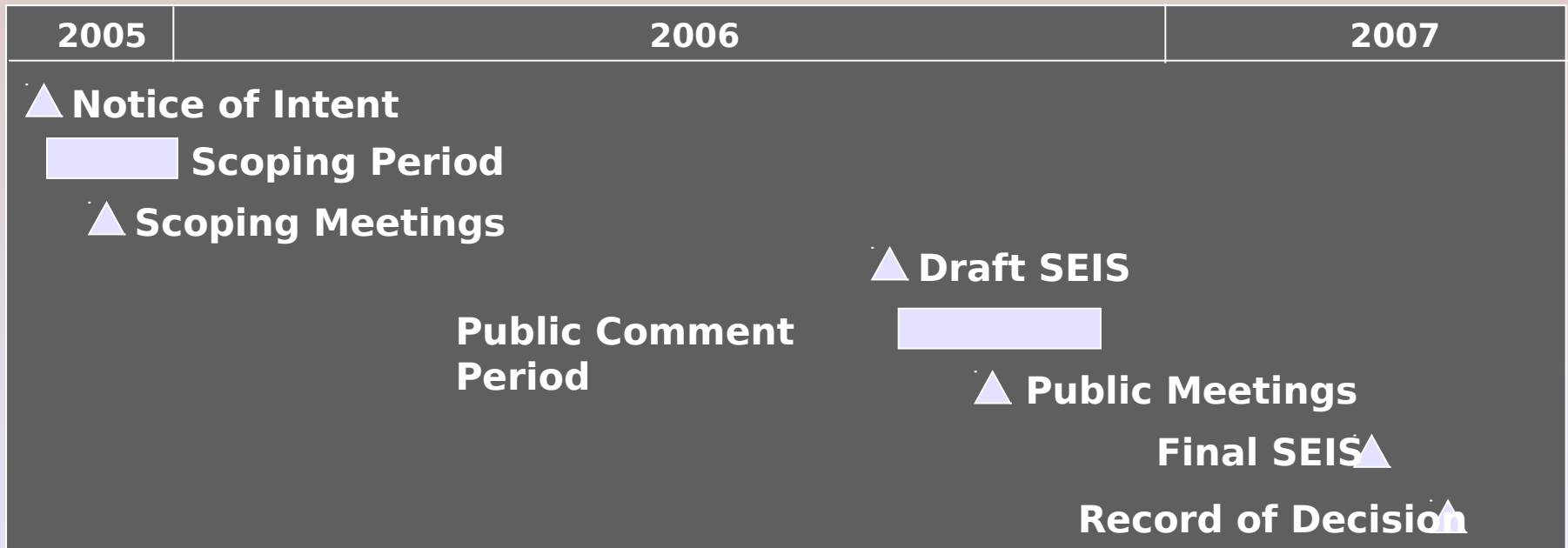
Draft SEIS

- ❑ **Completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations**
- ❑ **Compares the five alternatives, including No Action**
- ❑ **Addresses environmental and socioeconomic impacts in 14 resources areas**
- ❑ **Provided for public review and comment**
- ❑ **Comments on the Draft SEIS will be included in the Final SEIS**



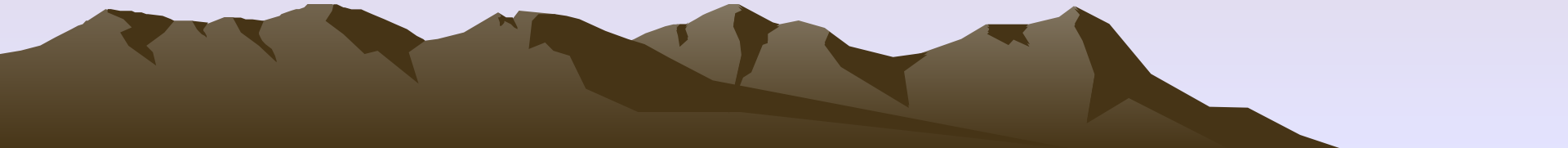
SEIS Schedule

- ❑ Draft SEIS distributed October 6
- ❑ Draft SEIS review period ends December 12
- ❑ Final SEIS will be distributed next spring
- ❑ Record of Decision no earlier than 30 days after publication of the Final SEIS



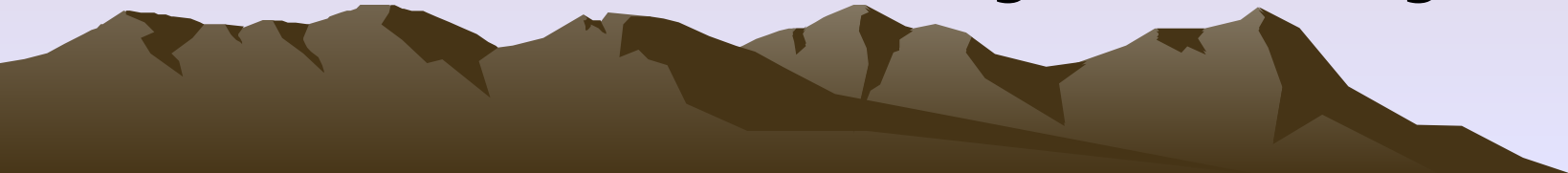
Summary of Environmental Consequences

- ❑ **Additional personnel at Fort Bliss expected to result in direct population increase of over 60,000, including civilians and dependents.**
- ❑ **Increased economic activity projected to attract another almost 60,000 people into the region.**
- ❑ **El Paso and nearby communities expected to become more developed to accommodate the population increases.**
- ❑ **Traffic congestion around the Main Cantonment Area and on regional highways will increase.**
- ❑ **Additional demand for water and wastewater treatment will require El Paso Water Utilities to increase supply.**



Summary of Environmental Consequences cont.

- ☐ **Off-road vehicle maneuvers will increase erosion potential in some areas.**
- ☐ **Off-road vehicle maneuvers will increase dust, but air quality standards will not be exceeded outside the installation.**
- ☐ **The most prevalent vegetation community affected is mesquite coppice dunes, which will not change significantly.**
- ☐ **There will likely be some changes in vegetation and species density.**
- ☐ **Highly sensitive areas will be off limits to vehicles.**
- ☐ **Impacts to historic resources will be managed in accordance with a Programmatic Agreement**

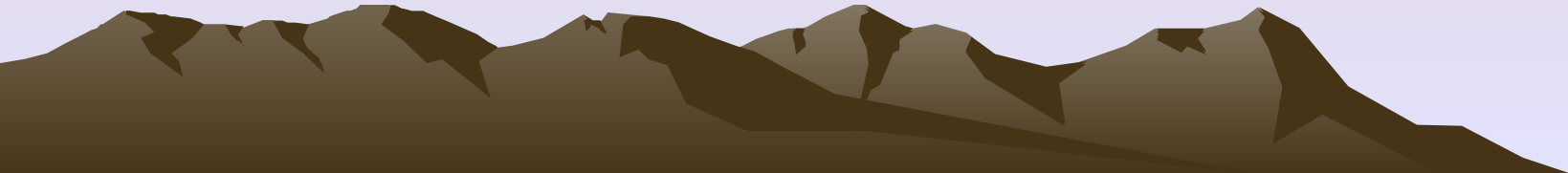


Summary of Environmental Consequences cont.

- ☐ **Areas immediately north and south of Doña Ana Range and near McGregor firing ranges will be exposed to elevated noise levels from large caliber weapons firing.**
- ☐ **Increased population and activity will incrementally increase safety risks, but they remain low.**
- ☐ **Increased use of hazardous materials and hazardous waste generated manageable through existing procedures.**
- ☐ **The increased population will need more housing and community services, including schools, law enforcement, fire protection, and medical services.**

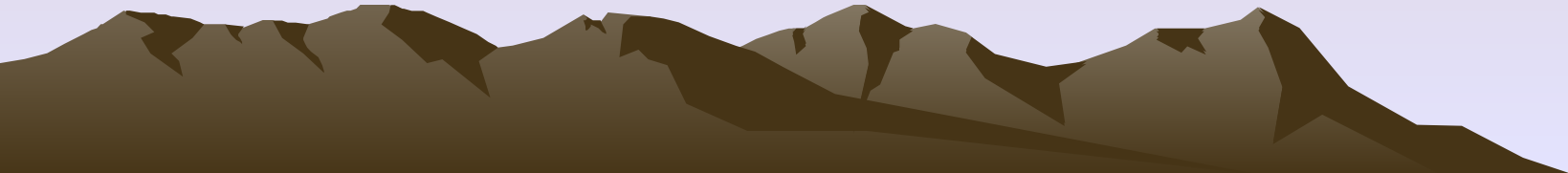


15 Minute Break



Public Comments

- ☐ When your name is called, step up to the microphone.
- ☐ Please speak clearly so the court reporter can hear and understand you.
- ☐ Your comments will be printed verbatim in the Final SEIS; please do not include any personal information you do not want to be published.
- ☐ Please observe the time limit so everyone who wants to has the opportunity to speak.



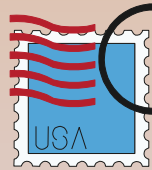
How to Submit Written Comments

Comment Form



Comment forms are available in the registration area

U.S. Mail



Written comments or requests for more information should be

directed to:
Mr. John F. Barrera, NEPA Coordinator
Fort Bliss Directorate of Environment
ATTN: ATZC-DOE-C
B624, Pleasonton Road
Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812

E-Mail



You may submit your comments to the following e-mail address:

seis@bliss.army.mil

Facsimile



A fax number is also available to submit comments: 1 (915) 568-3548

Comments submitted by December 12, 2006 will be included in the Final SEIS.